

Claims

What is claimed is:

1. A method, comprising:
 - a) staggering a plurality of boards together, such that:
 - 5 (i) the boards' respective adjacent faces abut, and
 - (ii) at least one of the boards' respective edges and the boards' respective ends collectively form a predetermined tongue-and-groove coupling, and
 - b) fixing together the boards so staggered into a brick.
- 10 2. A method as claimed in Claim 1, wherein staggering comprises: staggering a plurality of boards together, such that at least one of the boards' respective edges and the boards' respective ends collectively form a symmetrical predetermined tongue-and-groove coupling.
- 15 3. A method as claimed in Claim 1, wherein fixing comprises: chemically bonding.
4. A method as claimed in Claim 1, further comprising: cutting the boards to the same nominal dimensions before staggering them.
5. A method as claimed in Claim 4, wherein staggering comprises:
 - (i) selecting a group of the boards, and
 - 20 (ii) aligning in a common plane the respective edges of the boards in the group.
6. A method as claimed in Claim 1, further comprising: creating a raceway through the brick.
7. A method as claimed in Claim 6, wherein creating a raceway comprises:
 - 25 cutting a raceway through the brick.
8. A method as claimed in Claim 6, wherein creating a raceway comprises: dividing one board into two portions separated by a gap that passes through the brick.

9. A method as claimed in Claim 6, wherein creating a raceway comprises: cutting one of the boards to a smaller nominal dimension than other boards.

10. A method as claimed in Claim 1, further comprising: fabricating a predetermined cross-coupling on the brick.

5 11. An apparatus, comprising:

(a) a plurality of boards staggered together, such that:

(i) the boards' respective adjacent faces abut, and

(ii) at least one of the boards' respective edges and the boards' respective ends collectively form a predetermined tongue-and-groove coupling, and

(b) means for fixing the plurality of boards together so staggered into a brick.

12. An apparatus as claimed in Claim 11, wherein: the plurality of boards are staggered together such that at least one of the boards' respective edges and the boards' respective ends collectively form a symmetrical predetermined tongue-and-groove coupling.

13. An apparatus as claimed in Claim 11, wherein the means for fixing comprises: a chemical bonding agent.

14. An apparatus as claimed in Claim 11, wherein: the boards have been cut before staggering to the same nominal dimensions.

15. An apparatus as claimed in Claim 14, wherein: one group of the boards has been staggered such that those boards' respective edges are aligned within a common plane.

16. An apparatus as claimed in Claim 1, further comprising: a raceway through the brick.

17. An apparatus as claimed in Claim 16, wherein:

a) one board is divided into two portions that between them define a gap that passes through the brick, and

b) the raceway follows the gap.

18. An apparatus as claimed in Claim 16, wherein:

- a) one board has a smaller nominal dimension than other boards, and
- b) the raceway follows the smaller board substantially perpendicular to its smaller nominal dimension.

5 19. An apparatus as claimed in Claim 11, further comprising: a cross-coupling on at least one of a face and an edge of the brick.

20. An apparatus as claimed in Claim 19, wherein: the cross-coupling is proximate one end of the brick.